

# Doctors for America 2023 Impact Report



**RECLAIMING THE VOICE OF MEDICINE**





## WHO WE ARE

Doctors for America (DFA) is an organization of over 27,000 physician and medical trainee advocates in all 50 states, representing all areas of specialization. For too long, the physician's voice has been left out of health policy decisions. To address that, DFA equips physicians and medical trainees with skills and resources to advocate for health care issues at the local, state, and federal level.

## OUR APPROACH

DFA's work falls into three categories, which comprise the engine of our advocacy. By focusing in on key areas where physician voice is needed, we are able to have an outsized impact on the issues that matter to doctors & patients.

### ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CARE

- Medicaid Expansion
- Drug Affordability & Shortages
- FDA Task Force

### COMMUNITY HEALTH & PREVENTION

- Emergent Public Health
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Substance Use Disorder Prevention

### HEALTH JUSTICE & EQUITY

- Reproductive Rights & Coalition Building
- Decriminalization & Liberation
- Gender Affirming Care

## What Makes DFA Different

DFA is not like other medical professional societies and advocacy groups – we do not accept any funding from pharmaceutical or medical device companies. This uniquely positions DFA as an organization that puts *patients over politics* and *patients over profits*. Our advocates have become a trusted resource for legislators and regulatory officials, and our doctors have been featured in outlets such as CNN, MSNBC, Fox, NY Times, LA Times, Washington Post, and more.

# Access to Affordable Care (AAC)



## By the Numbers

2

### NEW MEMBER EVENTS

The AAC hosted 2 new member events that were attended by 17 new members.

3

### ADVOCACY GRAND ROUND SESSIONS

The committee hosted 3 Advocacy Grand Round sessions addressing topics like healthcare innovation, Medicaid unwinding and greed.

4

### MEMBERS FEATURED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

AAC highlighted 4 members on DFA's social media channels as a larger social media recruitment campaign.

3

### VIDEOS TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

Members of leadership filmed 3 videos to recruit new members to the AAC impact area which can be found on DFA's YouTube.

4

### ACTION ALERTS

Committee members participated in 4 action alerts about Medicaid expansion, prescription drug affordability boards, and drug affordability.

5

### MEDICAID EXPANSION TRAININGS

Medicaid Expansion trainings were hosted in 5 states and worked closely with coalitions to get Medicaid Expansion across the finish line in North Carolina.

20

### PARTNER SIGN-ONS

AAC signed onto 20 letters, statements, and Amicus Briefs with partners on topics such as Medicare's ability to negotiate drug prices, insulin access and more.

8

### STATEMENTS RELEASED

AAC released 8 statements focused on Medicaid expansion, Medicaid unwinding, affordable drug pricing, and the Anniversary of the Enactment of the Affordable Care Act.

## Additional Achievements

- The Access to Affordable Care (AAC) Impact Area at DFA is a trusted partner for congressional offices to reach out to for input and support around various pieces of legislation pertaining to access to care.
- Working with coalitions across the country, AAC is working on prescription drug affordability boards. Notably, in Michigan and Virginia we were the physician voice that the coalition relied on for quotes, testimony, and input.
- Created a "Addressing Greed in Health Care" campaign and drafted a Declaration Against Greed in Health Care.
- Launched monthly advocacy skill building sessions for our members including storytelling, powermapping and more!

## Public Comments

The FDA Task Force members presented five (5) times at FDA Advisory Committee meetings regarding drug approvals. The task force also submitted seven (7) written public comments to the FDA, United States Patent and Trade Office, and in response to a Congressional Request for Information.

13

## News Appearances

The FDA Task Force members were published or mentioned in multiple news sources including the Washington Post, STAT News, MedPage Today, and more for their advocacy around accelerated approval and strengthening the FDA.

15+

## Meetings with Senate and Congressional Staff

The FDA Task Force members attended four (4) Capitol Hill Fly-ins, where they met with over 30 Senate and Congressional leaders.

30+

# FDA Task Force Impact 2023

## Meetings with Regulatory Leaders

The FDA Task Force also met with the FDA's Chief Scientist Dr. Namandjé Bumpuss and the FDA's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hillary Marston, as well as with CMS leadership and the CMS Innovation Center

6

## Sign Ons + Trainings

The FDA Task Force signed onto four (4) letters this year, including the SAFER Health Act Sign-on with Rep. Eshoo and Rep. Jacobs. Trainings included a fireside chat with Oversight and Energy & Commerce staff on the Congressional aduhelm investigation.

7+

## Advisory Committee Applications

Two doctors from the FDA Task Force submitted applications for the Peripheral and Central Nervous System Advisory Committee.

2

# Community Health & Prevention (CHP)



## By the Numbers

### Toolkits Created

A marijuana toolkit outlined how to provide harm reduction counseling. An addiction medicine education toolkit provided an overview of use disorders, mitigating burnout, and other resources.

2

### Advocacy Grand Round Sessions

The committee hosted 3 Advocacy Grand Round sessions addressing gun violence prevention, addiction treatment & public health with nearly 300 registrants and over 200 recording views.

2

### Videos to Recruit New Members

Members of leadership filmed 3 videos to recruit new members to the CHP impact area which can be found on DFA's YouTube page.

2

### Gun Violence Prevention Sign-Ons

CHP signed onto 4 letters and statements pushing for ghost gun regulations and closing the gun show loophole.

4

### Op-Eds Written

Doctors from the committee wrote 5 Op-Eds focused on the importance of vaccines as prevention, strengthening gun laws, and the mental health stigmas among opioid use disorders.

5

### Gun Violence Prevention Events

CHP participated in 10 Gun Violence Prevention Events with organizational partners including Newtown, Brady, Everytown, Mom's Demand, and Giffords.

10

### Action Alerts

Members participated in 13 action alerts on protecting access to vaccines and their importance, and encouraging stronger gun laws at the federal level and in states like OR and IL.

13

## Additional Achievements

- The CHP Impact Area participated in the Gun Violence Prevention Day of Action to bring awareness to the number of deaths by guns and to highlight the importance of stronger gun legislation.
- Members rallied together during "Home Run for Health", an in-person event centered on voting law changes. Flu and COVID-19 vaccines were provided, along with information on health insurance through the Marketplace.
- DFA members attended the 11th Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence in Washington, DC held by the Newtown Action Alliance.
- 5 addiction-based videos were created that highlight the dangers of stigma in addiction, treatment principles, the roles of physicians and trainees, and avoiding burnout.

# Health Justice & Equity (HJE)



## By the Numbers

3

### ADVOCACY GRAND ROUNDS

The committee hosted 3 Advocacy Grand Round sessions focused on reproductive rights, gender affirming care, and carceral advocacy with nearly 300 registrants and over 200 recording views.

3

### VIDEOS TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

Members of leadership filmed 3 videos to recruit new members to the HJE impact area which can be found on DFA's YouTube.

3

### OP-EDS WRITTEN

DFA doctors wrote 3 op-eds focused on shield laws, including the rights between a patient and their doctor when providing reproductive health care.

6

### ACTION ALERTS

Committee members participated in 6 action alerts supporting reproductive rights through encouraging shield laws in New York, ensuring reproductive rights for military families, and speaking up for bodily autonomy.

6

### PARTNER SIGN-ONS

HJE signed onto 6 letters, statements, and Amicus Briefs with our partners

- 3 Reproductive rights sign-ons
- 3 Decriminalization & liberation sign-ons

5

### AMICUS BRIEFS

In partnership with Columbia Law's Science, Health and Information Clinic, DFA submitted 5 amicus briefs to help inform the courts to make decisions about access to mifepristone. This work was a coordinated effort with multiple organizations with DFA having the only brief focused on the impact that access to mifepristone has on clinicians and patients. [Click here](#) to read these powerful accounts.

## Additional Achievements

- Because DFA members do so much for so many, a special education session was held on "Prescribing Burnout," focussing on mitigating fatigue, how to avoid burnout, and recognizing the signs of burnout and how addressing them can lead to a more fulfilling life.
- The HJE impact area participated in the National Day of Action on the anniversary of the undoing of Roe v. Wade to highlight the importance of reproductive rights.
- A toolkit was created in response to the Supreme Court's 2022 ruling entitled *Providing Care Post Dobbs*. The toolkit focused on how to provide care to those who need it, how to access clinical trainings, and more
- A resource worksheet on gender affirming care highlights training resources, one-pagers with facts on LGBTQ+ adults and youth, and videos and various readings with more evidence-based information. The resource also included organizations who are doing work centered on LGBTQ+ populations.

# A. Gene Copello Health Advocacy Fellowship

Doctors For America's Copello Fellowship program is a unique opportunity to build leadership and advocacy skills to improve the health of your patients and community. Ten extraordinary leaders met monthly to learn from experts and each other about advocacy, action planning, media relations and communication strategy, engaging your legislators and more! Meet the 2022/23 Copello Fellow Cohort and see some of the highlights of their work:



**Spencer Asay,  
Medical Student**

Focused on health disparities by leading the Access to Affordable Care federal legislation subcommittee. In addition, he moderated an educational session on Pharmacy Benefit Managers and their impact on drug prices, and contributed to the CMS rulemaking process on delivering high quality care to the underserved.



**Joel Burnett,  
MD**

Addressed gun violence as a public health initiative and submitted testimony on gun violence prevention legislation while teaching colleagues how to do the same. Plus his letter to the editor was published on firearm injury prevention and he was later thanked by a patient for doing so.



**Cindy Davis,  
MD**

Contributed to a narrative amicus brief (from the District Court to the Supreme Court) on the impact of mifepristone access has on patients, especially those in rural areas. She also did outreach to local tribal leaders offering prenatal services and resources.



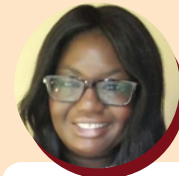
**Rebecca Fujimura,  
MD**

Published a book called, Healing: Stories from a Global Health Physician. The essays highlighted patients, whose voices would never be heard otherwise, and the disparities in care and the atrocities in health equity that occur in the U.S. and around the world.



**Tejasvi Gowda,  
MD/Resident**

Created a comprehensive Know Your Rights Guide for New York shield laws highlighting the rights, protections and risks of providing abortion care in the state, as well as drafting a Reproductive Rights Advocacy Toolkit used by the Reproductive Health Coalition.



**Itisha Jefferson,  
Medical Student**

Led the initiative to obtain and advocate for two alopecia-related International Classification of Disease (ICD) 10-CM codes and she guided the Good Skin Knowledge Project to educate young girls about common hair, skin and nail conditions. She was also a member of the FDA Task Force.



**Alyssa Lambrecht,  
Medical Student**

Created five video resources on Substance Use Disorder (SUD) detailing subjects like addiction, stigma, treatment, the role of emergency medicine physicians, preventative care and the role of trainees, physician SUD, and resources and allyship.



**Kelsi Manley,  
MD**

Co-created an advocacy curriculum for residents and worked on state legislation to successfully codify protection for physicians to provide abortion care, expanded access to abortion care, and expanded key components of gender affirming care in Oregon.



**Rueben Mathew,  
MD/Resident**

As part of the FDA Task Force, he educated other clinicians about the FDA and the need for independent voices by moderating an educational session about the removal of the drug, hydroxyprogesterone caproate injection (Makena). He also testified on the drug Tofersen at a FDA Advisory Committee meeting.



**Subhjit Sekhon,  
MD/Resident**

Created a broad coalition called Wellness Opportunities for Migrant Beginnings whose goal is to advance health equity and increase access to care for female migrants. In addition, she built a curriculum to increase the health literacy for immigrant and refugee women.



**Shetal Shah,  
MD**

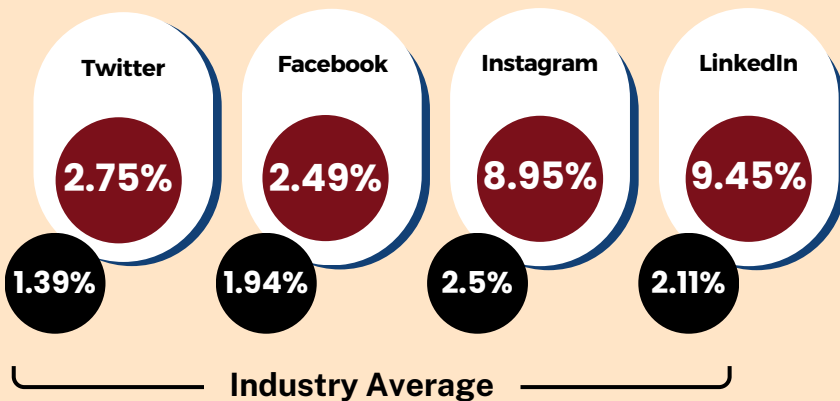
Was on a national crusade writing Op-Eds across the country addressing issues like vaccine hesitancy, addiction to social media in teens, loss of health care access due to Medicaid unwinding and coverage of donor milk, and the necessity to extend Medicaid postpartum care to one year.

# Digital Media



## By the Numbers

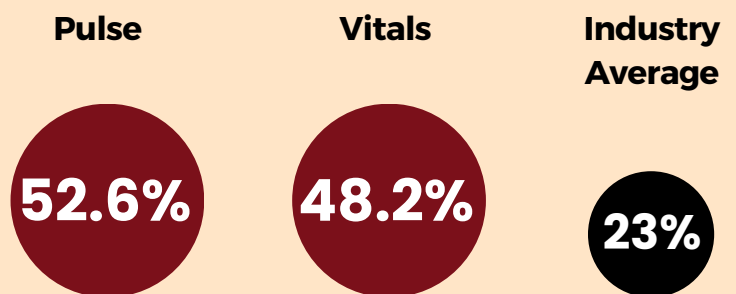
### Social Media Engagement Rates



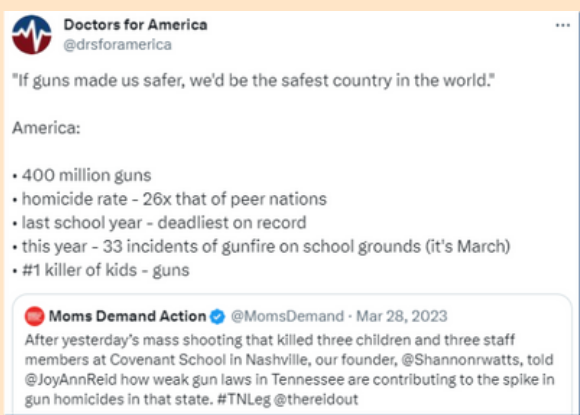
Engagement rate is a measure of how much of your audience actively engages with your content. It measures the amount of interaction a piece of content gets compared to audience size. Engagement rate equals total engagement divided by total followers, multiplied by 100%. **Doctors for America exceeded the industry average engagement rate on all channels.**

### Newsletter Open Rates

Open Rate measures the percentage rate at which emails are opened. The average open rate across the industry is anywhere from 18%-28%. Doctors for America's average open rate for the Pulse & Vitals newsletters was a combined 50%. **The Pulse had an average open rate of 52.6% while Vitals had an average open rate of 48.2%**



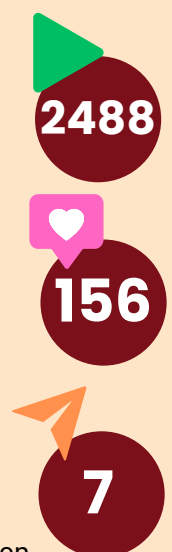
### Top Posts



A quoted post allows for users to see the original post along with your account's thoughts. On March 28, DFA quoted a very powerful video on the mass shooting in Nashville from @MomsDemand. **This quoted post has 53.2k views and was favorited by 442 accounts.**



An Instagram reel allows users to film or upload video clips for up to 60 seconds. It is their version of a Tik Tok. **This reel filmed by Bijou asked for donations during National Doctors Day. It was viewed by 2,488 users.**





# Board Chair & Executive Director

## Final Thoughts



### Meghana Rao, MD - Board Chair

In this election year, the path ahead is unclear. And what we are able to see appears to be daunting. Yet, history reveals a reason for optimism... that one person, one idea, can make a powerful difference. We ALL care about health in our country, that's why you are reading this. But we know it is a long road ahead. In 2024, reproductive health and abortion remains under attack, and other health issues hang in the balance too. We can no longer watch silently from the sidelines, we must come together, and speak out!

Doctors for America can help you find your voice. Whether you are a seasoned advocate or a novice - we are your people, and this is the place to learn, practice and activate. As health advocates, we have an opportunity to step up and use our voices to talk with policymakers. If that sounds scary, bring a friend...or 10 - and start talking. DFA will teach you the skills needed to become the best advocate you can be for the issues you care about. Register for an Advocacy Grand Rounds or sign-up to join a subcommittee. You take the first step and we'll do the rest!



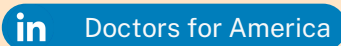
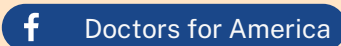
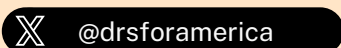
### Angie Bakke, MBA - Executive Director

As I read through the 2023 Impact Report, I am struck by what has been achieved in the past year. The shared success of Doctors for America is with our members and staff, and it is also shared with our many collaborative partners. No one person or organization can do it all, but together we can continue to do a lot.

Something on my mind this year has been both the evolution and revolution required for great things to happen. In 2024, DFA celebrates 15 years of putting *Patients over Politics* and *Patients over Profits*. This year you will see DFA physician and medical trainees "*Reclaiming the Voice of Medicine*" at the National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, June 6 - 8. You will also see a focussed effort to address greed in health care. When you add the election to all of that, it's going to be a wild year, so HOLD ON, because we are determined to make a difference!

Please join us in whatever way you can. Share your time and ideas, and if you can't do that, please consider supporting our work with a tax deductible contribution to Doctors for America.

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